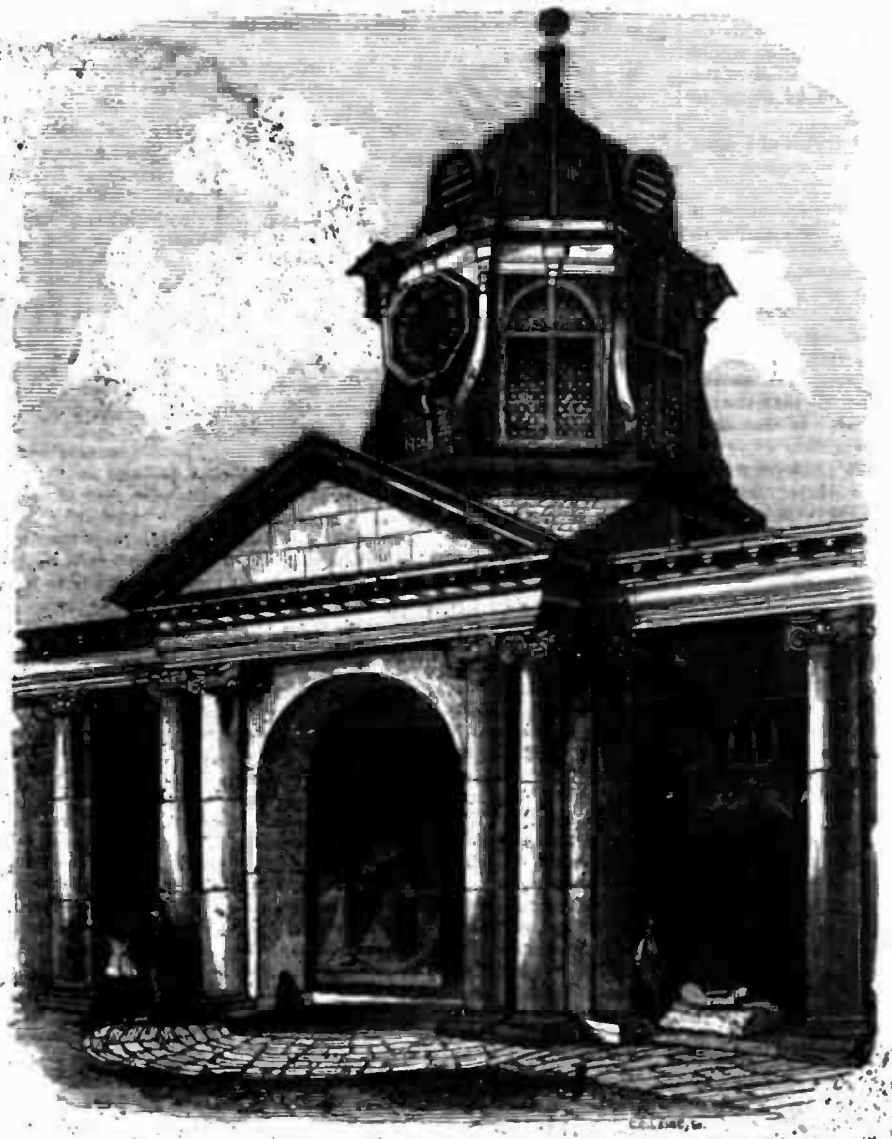
VIEW NEXT THE COURT OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM.



ENGLISH DOORWAYS.—No. 3.

ENTRANCE, NEXT THE COURT, TO MONTAGUE HOUSE.

Our accompanying view is taken from the court-yard of Montague House, now forming the older portion of the British Museum, and represents the inside of the southern entrance from Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury, the outside of which we gave in No. 73.

The present subject forms in truth part of the Ionic colonnade, which traverses the whole southern side of the court-yard, and is indeed detached, except by its ceiling and roof, from the outer portal itself, a porter's lodge in part intervening between the doorway and the avenue of the colonnade. The whole mass of the gateway, internal and external, is surmounted by an octagonal turret, finished upwardly by an ogive cupola; which, according to our print, though in outline, from the nearness of the view, somewhat harsh, is not, as seen more remotely, without elegance of shape: with some reforms in its transomed and mullioned windows, and other parts, it might be successfully employed again in picturesque works. The interior of the gateway itself is of masonry, while the cupola is principally of wood; and its carvings, though coarse and common-place, are not altogether destitute of merit; and we may hereafter, among our specimens of scrolls and brackets, take an example from this subject.

When we give an interior view of the whole court and buildings of this ancient mansion, we shall go more into detail.

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TIMBER—ITS TREATMENT AND USES.

BY JAMES WYLSON.

"The gloomy pine, the poplar blue,
The yellow beech, the sable yew,
The slender fir that taper grows,
The sturdy oak with broad-spread boughs."

1. As it is of the highest importance that those interested in building should be familiar with the nature and properties of the materials used therein, and with none more necessarily than those upon which the carpenter and joiner have to operate, we shall endeavour in this paper to bring together such data as shall forward that desirable object with reference to timbers, confining our attention to such as are actually comprehended under the title of building-materials.

2. The term Timber is used to imply wood prepared for the purposes of building, and comprises a considerable variety, both in genera and species: before proceeding, however, to that mature stage of the subject, it is our duty to inquire, if not into the botanical niceties, at least into the general nature, of its growth.

3. In the first place, then, with regard to structure, it has to be observed that the transverse section of a tree presents numerous concentric rings encircling the medulla or *pith*, and encompassed by the *bark*, and which rings or layers being counted from the pith outwards, give of the tree, as has been ascertained, its age in years,—one ring being formed every year. The process of formation is this:—the fluid called *sap*, which is necessary to the growth of the tree, rises in a watery but yet saccharine state from the roots, becoming enriched as it ascends; and during which stage of its progress it bears the name of *common sap*; undergoing then a change in its nature, during the production and growth of the leaves and young shoots, it descends in a less liquid state, now *proper sap*, between the last formed ring and the bark, and there forms a new layer of wood, the bark during its descent expanding and leaving a space to receive it.

4. The ascent of the common sap is chiefly through the newest wood, which is more soft and porous than the older central part,—the density in young trees existing in regular gradations, from the heart outwards, diminishing but in those which have reached maturity divided only into two, each nearly uniform throughout,—the inner being called *heart-wood* and the outer *sap-wood*. Of these, the former contains little fluid and no vegetable life; and being the least liable to decay, is therefore the most perfect wood,—the latter is soft and perishable in its nature, abounding in saccharine and fermentable principles; thus affording the very food for worms, whose destructive inroads hasten its natural tendency to decay.

5. Before leaving this part of the subject, let us direct more minute attention to the annual rings and other phenomena observable in the transverse section. The rings are very distinct in some woods, from being uniform in their texture and colour, while in others they are found to be compact in one part and porous in the rest. Of the first description mahogany is a familiar example, and one of the latter structure is ash; besides these there are the resinous woods, in which the porous part is found to be filled with resin or gum, presenting in the layers one part dark, compact and hard, while the other is lighter and softer. In addition to these characteristics in the annual rings, there may be distinguished in every wood except the palm-tree, traversing rays, the same which appear

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